Some WEIGHTY Considerations,

Humbly Propoſed to the HONOURABLE

MEMBERS

Of the Enſuing

ASSEMBLY

Of the STATES of

SCOTLAND.

By a Lover of his Countrey's Liberty.

LONDON,
Printed in the Year, 1689.

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ALL conſiderate States and Princes have uſed Religion as a mean to ſweeten the ſpirits of their Subjects, and to make them obedient from Choice and Principle.

The *Roman* State which Conquered a great part of the then known World did ſo much as they could, comply with the Religious Rites of their ſubdued Provinces; and were ſo far from obtruding their own upon the People ſubjected to them, that the *Jews* who averred all other Nations to be Idolatrous and Prophane, were protected in their Church-Government and ſacred Rites at home, in their Synagogues, and freedom to make Proſelytes in other Provinces.

But now for a long tract of Years it hath been the buſineſs of the Government of *Scotland* to force a Church-Government, a

Discipline and set of Priests upon a devout and sincere People, to the racking of their Consciences, fomenting of Broyls and Tumults, continuing a horrid spectacle of Executions; and in short, to the introducing of Ignorance and all manner of Profanity.

It is expected that the Honourable Assembly of the States will consider, that it is not only against good Policy to force Conscience, but as much against the Rights of Mankind, as to use violence against Life or Chastity, since he who complyeth for fear of Punishment with what is against his light, (whether good or bad in it self) must be obnoxious to the Anger of an irresistable God, and to the melancholick sentences of a wounded spirit. And since the Persons and Estates of such as standeth it out, must be a Victim to the sanction of severe Laws, for refusing to offend God and wound their Consciences; which if duely pondered, cannot but encline the Honourable Assembly to restore to the People their natural Rights of Worshipping God, and choosing Teachers according to their Consciences, to instruct and rule them suitably to the Gospel of Peace, and their Reformation from Romish Tyranny.

It hath been the sad Fate of the Kingdom of *Scotland* to be ruined by Parliaments (the glorious Bulwarks of our neighbouring Nation) the Constitution whereof hath been manifestly perverted by various Innovations obtruded upon them by force and fraud.

The Officers of State, at first only admitted to be present in Parliament as Attendants upon the King's Person, have by degrees wheedled themselves into a Custom of Voting, albeit no part of the three Estates of Parliament.

Though our Kings have had the Power of conferring Titles of Honour, yet such Grants for several Ages gave no Right to Vote in Parliament, 'till first approved by the Estates of Parliament. By the Invasion upon this Right of Parliaments, the number of their Hereditary Members doth now exceed the number of the Elective, though they possess not so much as a tenth part of the Property of the Nation, and several possess no part of it at all.

The fourteen Prelates obtruded upon the Parliaments, on purpose to secure so many Votes to the Court, hath been suffered to con-

continue the known dead weight of the Houſe, though it cannot be underſtood what part of the Body Politick they repreſent, ſince the Clergy pretend to the Kingdom of Chiſt, whoſe Kingdom is not of this World, who (to give them their due) have acted ſuitably, in conſtantly Voting for the King, whom they called their Head under Chriſt, in Prejudice of the Nations beſt Intereſt.

The Lords of the Articles were Calculate to obviate the Nations reaping any ſuitable fruit of Parliament.

Members being obnoxious for what they ſpeak in Parliament, is a Plague which conſumeth the Vitals of a Legiſlative Power.

The Impoſing of unneceſſary, diſputable, and ſelf-contradicting Oaths on all Members of Parliament, and Electors of ſuch, hath deprived many of the Nobility of their Birth-rights, and the Gentry and Citizens from Electing and being Elected.

It hath done no good ſervice to our Parliaments, that only King's Barons are admitted to Elect, which in ſome Shires are very few, whereas many Gentlemen who bear greater burden than many of them, and are as much to be ſuppoſed in the Intereſt of the Countrey, are debarred from Electing, upon a fiction of the Fewdall Law, whereby they are eſteemed to be repreſented in their Superiours, which was more tolerable while the Conſtitution was ſtanding, to which the Fewdall Law was Calculate.

It is not doubted, but the Wiſdom of our great Aſſembly ſhall find out Expedients to remove all Innovations, and ſettle the Parliaments on a ſolid Foundation.

Moſt of all our Miniſters of State, Judges and Privy Councellers, have been theſe Twenty Eight years by-paſt the great Grievances of the Nation, the Subſtance of the Countrey hath been exhauſted by perſons of all Ranks going to Court for Redreſs, univerſally to no purpoſe: Upon which accompt, none can doubt but a wiſe Aſſembly, which hath it in their hands to prevent ſuch miſchiefs, ſhall ſecure to Parliaments their ancient Priviledges, to recommend perſons of Integrity and Capacity for the Service of the Nation in all publick Truſts; and above all make ſure the frequent aſſembling of Parliaments, a ſovereign Antidote againſt bad Miniſters.

Where-

Whereas every wiſe Government conſidereth by what means it can probably be defended, and where the publick Revenue of the Countrey is no wiſe ſufficient to ſuſtain a ſtanding Force proportioned to their defence, care is taken to arm, incourage and model the Subjects for the ſecurity of the State.

The Subjects of *Scotland* have been again and again diſarmed, a ſtanding Force hath been kept on foot, to the number of three or four thouſand men, no wayes ſuited to the Defence of the Countrey, but ſufficient to Haraſs and Inſlave a diſarmed people.

It cannot eſcape the Providence of the Honourable Aſſembly, to put the Subjects in poſture of Defence, under Officers no leſs recommended upon the accompt of Integrity and Love to their Couutrey, as upon the Accompt of Courage and Experience: And take care that no ſtanding Force be ſuffered to be kept in the Kingdom without conſent of Parliament, nor be Leavied to ſerve under other States or Princes, without Permiſſion and Obligation, that they ſhall be ſent back when the Parliament ſhall find it neceſſary for the Nations Service.

A long continued Race of both Elective and Succeſſive *Scotch* Kings, have conſtantly acknowledged, that they are bound to Oblige themſelves by ſolemn Oath, to protect their Subjects and defend their Rights, at the ſolemn receipt of the Peoples Allegiance.

But to Crown the Miſeries of that bleeding Nation, *James* the Seventh, pretending a Right from God alone, aſſumed the Government, without obliging himſelf by ſolemn Oath to the Subjects, contrary to the Fundamental Couſtitution, continual Cuſtom and Acknowledgment of his Anceſtors, and an expreſs Statute, which is only a Declaration of the fundamental Conſtitution, enlarged by what was abſolutely neceſſary for the peace and ſafety of the Subjects when Reformed from *Romiſh* Darkneſs and Superſtition: And as his being a bigoted Papiſt did render him incapable to oblige himſelf to his Subjects, according to the terms of the Oath contained in the foreſaid Statute, and conſequently incapable of the Regal Dignity; ſo his Arbitrary and Popiſh Deſigns made it impoſſible he could ingage him-

himself to defend the Liberty and Property of the Subjects: And if the Act of Succession made in the Parliament, Eighty one, should be objected, the Answer is obvious, that that pretended Parliament was holden by himself, whom many former Laws had rendered incapable of bearing any Office in our Protestant Countrey, yea incapable of being a lawful Subject, and so all its Acts are *ipso facto*, null and void.

Again, it was not in the power of any Parliament to alter a fundamental Constitution, more ancient then Parliaments, than it was to turn Kings or Parliaments out of doors.

In short, his Usurping the Government, his Arbitrary management thereof; and at last his relinquishing Great *Brittan*, and betaking himself to the protection of the Arch-Enemy of Christianity, yea, Humanity it self, giveth sufficient ground to declare him an Enemy of this Kingdom, and the Peoples Right to provide for themselves.

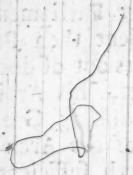
Since the Almighty God hath raised up the Prince of *Orange* now King of *England* (the hereditary *Hercules* of the latter World) to undertake so glorious an Enterprize, as the delivering of *Brittain* and *Ireland* from Popery and Slavery, and hath hitherto blessed his great and good Designs with suitable success: Gratitude and Justice requireth the Honourable Assembly to conferr the Regal Dignity upon him, that he may be the more encouraged to accomplish the Deliverance of these Nations, and assisted in the procurement of an universal Repose to all *Christendom*.

The former prelimenaries cannot be disagreeable to a Prince who striveth with his Subjects to put them in a Condition, that it may be in his and his Successors power to do them good, but not to hurt them.

It is not to be doubted, but the Honourable Assembly will find it the Interest of Mankind to pray, *Let King William live for ever*; and to make no otherwise mention of a Successor, than to renew their Laws disenabling all Papists to have any Interest in the Government of the Kingdom, and to appoint the Parliament immediately preceeding the decease of King *William* (whose Life God long preserve) to assemble within Fifteen days after his decease.

It

It is likewiſe hoped, that the Honourable Aſſembly (ſo ſoon as the Nation's moſt preſſing Affairs are ſettled) will fall upon proper Expedients to obtain an Union with our bordering Nation, that ſo the united Strength of great *Britain* may be intirely laid out for the Relief of our Neighbouring Proteſtants, yet groaning under the Heavy Yoak of their Antichriſtian *Romiſh* Tyrants.



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